

**WATER DISTRICTS AND MUNICIPAL UTILITIES MAY NOT REFUSE SERVICE
BECAUSE OF A CUSTOMER'S REFUSAL TO PROVIDE HIS OR HER SOCIAL
SECURITY NUMBERS**

Federal law prohibits water districts and municipal utilities from denying service to an applicant for service for failing to provide his or her social security number. Section 7 of [Public Law 93-579](#) provides: "It shall be unlawful for any Federal, State or local government agency to deny to any individual any right, benefit, or privilege provided by law because of such individual's refusal to disclose his social security account number." This prohibition, however, does not apply to (1) any disclosure which is required by federal statute; or (2) any disclosure of a social security number to any federal, state, or local agency maintaining a system of records in existence and operating before January 1, 1975, if such disclosure was required under statute or regulation adopted prior to such date to verify the identity of an individual.

If a water district or municipal utility does not meet the exception and refuses service because of an applicant's failure to provide his or her social security number, the applicant may bring an action in federal court under [42 U.S.C § 1983](#).